

-(으)냐고 하다

ask whether — reporting a question

The last of the four reported forms. Built on the plain question ending -(느)냐, and usually paired with 묻다 or 물어보다 rather than 하다.

HOW TO ATTACH IT

Verb	-냐고 (formally -느냐고)	가다 → 가냐고 물었어요
Adjective	-(으)냐고	좋다 → 좋냐고 물었어요
이다	-(이)냐고	학생이냐고 물었어요
Past	-았/었냐고	갔냐고 물었어요
Closing verb	묻다, 물어보다	어디 가냐고 물어봤어요
Spoken contraction	-내요	가내요

WHEN TO USE IT

Formally the ending splits by word class: verbs take -느냐고, adjectives -(으)냐고, 이다 -(이)냐고. In practice modern Korean has levelled this, and -냐고 after any stem is what you will hear and read: 가냐고, 좋냐고, 학생이냐고.

Tense goes inside, as with the other reported forms: 갔냐고 물었어요.

The closing verb is often 묻다 or 물어보다 rather than 하다, since the act being reported is asking: 어디 가냐고 물어봤어요.

Question words stay in place. Korean does not reorder anything for an indirect question, so 어디 가? becomes 어디 가냐고 with the 어디 untouched — simpler than the English equivalent.

The spoken contraction is -내요.

IN USE

- 친구가 어디 가냐고 물었어요.
My friend asked where I was going.
- 선생님이 숙제를 했냐고 물어보셨어요.
The teacher asked whether I'd done my homework.
- 그 사람이 한국 사람이냐고 물었어요.
He asked whether I'm Korean.
- 음식이 맛있냐고 물어봤어요.
I asked whether the food was good.
- 언제 만들 거냐고 했어요.
They asked when I'd be making it.

6 내일 시간 있네요.

They're asking whether you're free tomorrow.

COMPARED WITH

-(-느)-다고 하다

Statements versus questions. The four reported forms differ only in this slot, so learning them as a group is efficient.

간다고 했어요. (he said he's going) / 가냐고 했어요. (he asked whether I'm going)

-는지 묻다

An alternative for indirect questions, closer to English "whether" and common in writing: 오는지 물었어요. Both are correct; -냐고 is more conversational.

가냐고 물었어요. / 가는지 물었어요.

The four contractions

-대요, -래요, -재요, -내요. Recognising these four in speech unlocks a great deal of everyday conversation.

간대요 / 가래요 / 가재요 / 가내요

WATCH OUT

X 친구가 어디 가요고 물었어요.

O 친구가 어디 가냐고 물었어요.

The report is built on the plain question form, so the polite -아요 is stripped away first.

X 그 사람이 한국 사람이다냐고 물었어요.

O 그 사람이 한국 사람이냐고 물었어요.

이다 gives -(이)냐고 directly. There is no 다 in between.

X 선생님이 숙제를 하냐고 물으셨어요. — meaning "had you done it"

O 선생님이 숙제를 했냐고 물으셨어요.

Tense goes inside the ending. 하냐고 asks about now; 했냐고 asks about a completed action.